

3 - Work

The economic crisis that began at the end of 2007 continued to have a negative effect on the labour market in Sicily in 2012. In this period, compared to the previous year, there was a -2.7% fall in the number of employed persons (down by -38,595 units) and a rise of approximately 32.6% in the number of persons seeking employment (over 78,000 units). Sector by sector, there were appreciable losses in the building trade (almost -11,401 units, equal to a fall of -10%), in industry in the strict sense (-4.2%), in the service industry (-1.9%), and in agriculture where there was a fall in employment of 0.8% (-884 units compared to 2011).

A distribution per branch of economic activity in 2012 confirmed the sizable gap between the number of people employed in industry in the strict sense in Sicily (9.1%) and the corresponding number in Italy as a whole (23.4%); as confirmation of the lack of industrialization in Sicily the abiding agricultural vocation showed a percentage of workers in the primary sector of 8.2%, as against 2.5% in the country as a whole.

In 2012 over 252,000 workers (18.1% of the total for Sicily) had part-time contracts, principally women (64 out of 100 part-time employees).

Of the almost 205,000 term contracts stipulated in 2010 in Sicily, over 130,000 regarded the service sector (63.9%) and about 50,000 agriculture (24.3%), whereas the corresponding figures for construction (7.1%) and industry in the strict sense (4.6%) were decidedly lower.

As further demonstration of the difficulties encountered in Sicily by those entering the job market, in 2011 the number of persons seeking employment (319,172 units) corresponded to 11.6% of the national figure and 24.9% with reference to the South/islands division. The unemployment-rate rose (from 14.4% to 18.6% in the last year) whilst there was a fall in the number of unemployed persons aged between 15 and 64 (more than 1,600,000 units), representing 11.4% of the national total. The rise in the number of persons seeking work concerned both young people (who delayed joining the labour market in order to complete their studies) and adults (especially women) who were not actively seeking work, but would be available for work if the opportunity presented itself.

Mid-period analysis highlights a continuing, recessive trend beginning in 2008, the year in which the number of employed persons totaled 1,480,160. With regard to women the last year showed a 0.2% fall in the level of employment when compared to 2011, less marked than the figure recorded for 2007 (-1.1%). As for males, on the other hand, a fall of 3.9% was registered in the last period and a fall of 8.2% when compared with the initial period. For the

former the employment-rate went from 29.1% in 2008 to 28.6% by the end of the period. At the same time there was a significant rise in the number of persons seeking work; in the five-year period numbers rose by 23,808 units, with a direct effect on the unemployment-rate, which rose by 4.8% (it was 13.8% in 2008). The participation-rate also fell from 51.2% in 2008 to 50.8% in 2012, showing a slight rise when compared to 2011 (1.3%).

In relation to population size, the Provinces of Palermo (334,175 workers), Catania (298,224) and Messina (193,733) alone accounted for 59.1% of the total number of employed persons in Sicily. The highest participation-rate was to be found in Ragusa (59.1%), Messina (53.3%) and Agrigento (52.2%), whereas Siracusa, Caltanissetta and Catania were again the least “active” Provinces, with average indicator figures of around 48.8%. At the Provincial level, analysis of participation-rates highlights gender-related imbalances. The figures registered for females are decidedly lower than the high figures for males. For example, for males in the Provinces of Agrigento (70.7%), Ragusa (75.0%) and Siracusa and Trapani (62.9% and 67.2% respectively) where the indicator’s highest levels are recorded, the respective percentages for women are 34.2%, 43%, 35% and 36.3%. The greatest difficulty in finding work seems to be encountered above all in the Provinces of Caltanissetta (21.9%) and Enna (21.7%), whereas residents in Catania (16.3%) and Messina (16.6%) seem to have better opportunities. Ragusa and Palermo both registered an unemployment-rate of 19.4%, meaning that Ragusa, though remaining a Province with one of the lowest unemployment-rates in the Region is beginning to distance itself from unemployment-levels in the north/centre, (when it had similar rates in the years up to 2011).

Glossary

Dependent employee (permanent and full-time): employed persons tied to a business enterprise by a direct contract, on the basis of which they receive a salary.

Employed, The: all persons aged over 15, who, in the week of reference,:

- have carried out an hour of work in any activity providing remuneration in cash or in kind;
- have carried out at least an hour of unpaid work in an acquaintance’s business, where they might have often helped out;
- are off work (e.g. holiday, illness). Those off work are considered employed if the absence does not exceed 3 months, or if, during their absence, they

continue to receive at least 50% of their normal pay. Non-permanent workers who are off work, except for family-collaborators, are considered employed if, during their period of absence, they still keep their jobs. Family-collaborators are considered employed if their absence does not exceed 3 months.

Employment-rate: percentage ratio of the employed (aged 15 to 64) to the corresponding contextual population .

Job-seekers: include unemployed persons (aged between 15 and 74) who:
– have tried to look for employment in the thirty days prior to the interview and are available for work (or to start an autonomous activity) within the two weeks following the interview;
-or will be starting a job within three months of the date of the interview and are available for work (or to start an autonomous activity) within the two weeks following the interview, (were it possible to bring forward the starting date for the job).

Labour force: the total number of employed persons and persons seeking employment.

Non-work force: persons who declare themselves to be of a non-professional status and not to have carried out any working activity, nor to have sought work in the period in question. Included in this group are those doing their military, or substitutive civil service, invalids and persons under the age of 14 years.

Participation-rate: ratio of people in the work-force, aged 15 to 64 years, to the entire corresponding population.

Unemployment-rate: is the percentage ratio between those seeking employment and the total work-force.

Further reading

Publications

Italian statistical Yearbook 2013 – ISTAT
SVIMEZ 2012 report on the economy in the South – SVIMEZ
Immigration Statistics Dossier 2012 – CARITAS

Pensions – 2006 – ISTAT
Work and pay – 2005-2006 – ISTAT
The Labour-force – 2012 Averages – ISTAT

Internet

<http://www.istat.it>

Factor Productivity Measures – 1980-2006
Added value and internal employees per local work system - 2003-2004
Employment and added value in the Provinces – 2007
System of territorial indicators – Labour market area
Statistics for development policies – Key context indicators – Axis III Human resources
Italian statistical Yearbook 2013 – Chapter 9: “Work”

<http://www.inps.it>

Statistics data-banks
Observatory on businesses, permanent employees in non-agricultural private sector and average annual pay for workers and employees
Observatory on dependent employees
Observatory on employment and labour policies
Observatory on self-employed workers
Observatory on domestic workers
Observatory on the agricultural world

www.lavoro.gov.it

Sector studies and statistics

www.isfol.it

Annual report

www.inail.it

Statistics data-banks
Data-banks of disabled
Employment observatory
Historical statistics

www.lavoro.minori.it

National investigation into juvenile labour: “Children and work” – 2000
Children and injuries at work: reports and indemnity – 2002
Inspections of companies employing minors – 2003-2004

www.alef-fvg.it

Data regarding immigration and emigration

www.isfol.it

Towards work, organization and functioning of public services for citizens and business enterprises in the labour-market – Monitoring 2003

Labour quality in Italy

www.cnel.it

Labour-market data-base